

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a burst-type transmission power control apparatus of a radio transmitter and, more particularly, to a burst-type transmission power control apparatus that can suitably be used for a radio transmitter of a time division multiple access (TDMA) system required to stably and accurately control the transmission power over a wide dynamic range.

Description of the Related Art

[0002] Technological developments in the field of mobile communication terminals in recent years have been remarkable, particularly in terms of cellular telephone mobile communication systems which may typically be group special mobile (GSM) systems designed for moving subscribers to utilize telephones. The transmission systems used by such mobile communication systems are shifting or have shifted from analog radio transmission systems to digital radio transmission systems in order to meet the requirements of being compatible with networks based on digital exchange technologies, improving the sound quality, maintaining the confidentiality of coded signals and raising the communication capacity.

[0003] In addition to terrestrial mobile communication systems such as GSM systems, low-and medium-altitude orbit mobile satellite communication systems have become commercially feasible in recent years as global digital mobile communication systems which can be connected to each other in a seamless fashion along with portable terminal technologies. As a consequence, the demand for such systems and such terminals is rapidly increasing.

[0004] In such mobile communication systems, the TDMA radio system is used for portable terminals for the purpose of simple communication in order to reduce the load of the hardware on the portable terminals.

[0005] Additionally, high speed automatic power control (APC) systems adapted to control the power output including a ramping waveform added thereto before and after a steady-state burst for the purpose of elaborately controlling the transmission burst output level and preventing diffusion into adjacent channels of the transmission spectrum on a frequency base at the time of turning on/off the burst, has been used in order to maintain the quality of transmission/reception lines which can handle a certain level of traffic intensity and allow high density multiple access within the same communication cell.

[0006] A first prior art burst-type power control apparatus is of a closed loop type which detects a part of transmission power by a detector and feeds it back to

the gate of a high power amplifier formed by a GaAs field effect transistor (FET) or a Si bipolar transistor (see: Fig. 9 of JP-A-5-152977). This will be explained in detail later.

5 [0007] In the above-described first prior art burst-type transmission power control apparatus, however, since the dynamic range of the detector is narrow, it is difficult both to increase the speed of the rising and falling characteristics of a transmission burst signal, and to increase the power level of a transmission burst signal.

10 [0008] A second prior art burst-type transmission control apparatus further includes a variable attenuator in the closed loop of the first prior art burst-type transmission control apparatus (see: Fig. 10 of JP-A-5-152977). The attenuation degree of the variable attenuator is controlled so as to cause the maximum input level of the detector to be constant, thus broadening the dynamic range of the closed loop, so that the operation of the detector is stabilized on a reproducible basis. This also will be explained in detail later.

20 [0009] In the above-described second prior art burst-type transmission control apparatus, however, the control sensitivity of the high power amplifier is not improved, thus exhibiting a high damping coefficient and giving rise to an overshoot or undershoot during the rising burst period.

25 [0010] A third prior art burst-type transmission control apparatus further includes a variable power driver amplifier at a prestage of the high power amplifier of the second prior art burst-type transmission control apparatus, so as to suppress fluctuation of the control sensitivity of the high power amplifier depending on the output power level (see: Fig. 1 of JP-A-5-152977 & JP-A-10-172380). This also will be explained in detail later.

35 [0011] In the above-described third prior art burst-type transmission control apparatus, however, phase fluctuations occur in the high power amplifier because abrupt fluctuations in the amplitude envelope which occur inside the high power amplifier at and near the burst rising and falling time periods intersects the above phase fluctuation region.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

45 [0012] It is an object of the present invention to provide a burst-type transmission control apparatus capable of reducing phase fluctuations, i.e., phase errors.

[0013] According to the present invention, a burst-type transmission output control apparatus, includes an open loop formed by a variable power driver for amplifying a modulated wave signal, a saturation type high power amplifier, and a direction coupler. A closed loop is constructed by a variable attenuator connected to the directional coupler, a detector and a relative error amplifier connected to the saturation type power amplifier. A voltage converter supplies a power supply voltage to the saturation type high power amplifier so that a saturation of the saturation type high power amplifier is raised only

for a short period before and after a steady-state burst waveform, including rising and falling time periods.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] The present invention will be more clearly understood from the description set forth below, as compared with the prior art, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein;

Fig. 1 is a circuit diagram illustrating a first prior art burst-type transmission output control apparatus; Figs. 2A, 2B and 2C, are timing diagrams for explaining the operation of the apparatus of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a circuit diagram illustrating a second prior art burst-type transmission output control apparatus;

Fig. 4 is a graph showing the relationship between the error voltage and the transmission burst signal of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a circuit diagram illustrating a third prior art burst-type transmission output control apparatus;

Fig. 6 is a circuit diagram illustrating a first embodiment of the burst-type transmission output control apparatus according to the present invention;

Figs. 7A through 7E are timing diagrams for explaining the operation of the apparatus of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a circuit diagram illustrating a second embodiment of the burst-type transmission output control apparatus according to the present invention; and

Fig. 9 is a circuit diagram of a modification of the voltage converter of Figs. 6 and 8.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0015] Before the description of the preferred embodiments, prior art burst-type transmission output control apparatuses will be explained with reference to Figs. 1, 2A, 2B, 2C 3, 4 and 5.

[0016] In Fig. 1, which illustrates a first prior art burst-type transmission control apparatus (see: Fig. 9 of JP-A-5-152977), a modulated signal S_{in} generated from a modulated wave generator 1 which is, in this case, a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) is transmitted to a high power amplifier 2. As a result, the high power amplifier 2 is driven by the modulated signal S_{in} to generate a transmission burst signal S_{out} via a directional coupler 3. The transmission burst signal S_{out} is radiated from an antenna 4.

[0017] The directional coupler 3 takes out a part of the transmission burst signal S_{out} , and a detector 5 formed by a diode detects the output signal of the directional coupler 3. A relative error amplifier 6 compares a reference voltage V_{ref} as shown in Fig. 2A with the detection voltage V_{det} of the detector 5 as shown in Fig. 2B to generate an error voltage V_{error} in accordance

with the difference between the reference voltage V_{ref} and the detection voltage V_{det} .

[0018] The high power amplifier 2 is constructed by a GaAs field effect transistor (FET) having a gate for receiving the error voltage V_{error} , a grounded source and a drain for receiving a power supply voltage V_p from a power supply battery 7.

[0019] Thus, the transmission burst signal S_{out} is fed back by a closed loop of the detector 5 and the relative error amplifier 6 to the high power amplifier 2, so that the transmission burst signal S_{out} as shown in Fig. 2C is brought close to the reference voltage V_{ref} as shown in Fig. 2A. In other words, when $V_{det} > V_{ref}$ where the level of the transmission burst signal S_{out} is higher than a desired level, the relative error amplifier 6 decreases the error voltage V_{error} , thus decreasing the level of the transmission burst signal S_{out} . On the other hand, when $V_{det} < V_{ref}$ where the level of the transmission burst signal S_{out} is lower than the desired level, the relative error amplifier 6 increases the error voltage V_{error} , thus increasing the level of the transmission burst signal S_{out} .

[0020] The reference voltage V_{ref} is generated from a control unit 8 which receives a control signal S_{cont} from a base station on the like. The control unit 8 convolves a rectangular envelope waveform at a steady-state time period defined by time t_2 and time t_3 , a rising ramping envelope waveform at a rising time period defined by time t_1 and time t_2 , and a falling ramping envelope waveform at a falling time period defined by time t_3 and time t_4 on a time basis. The rising and falling ramping envelope waveforms are helpful in removing the spurious spectrum of the transmission burst signal S_{out} due to the switching of the GaAs FET of the high power amplifier 2.

[0021] Note that waveforms of the reference voltage V_{ref} depending on the control signal S_{cont} are stored in a read-only memory (ROM) or a random-access memory (RAM) of the control unit 8 in advance.

[0022] In the case of fixed envelope modulation such as Gaussian filtered minimum shift keying (GMSK) modulation which is an angular modulation intrinsically free from amplitude fluctuations unlike $\pi/4$ shift quadrature phase shift keying (QPSK) modulation for personal digital cellular (PDC), there is no need for relative error control to select a relatively large time constant for the loop amplifier including the relative error amplifier 6 for smoothing the detection voltage V_{det} including the amplitude fluctuations after detecting the envelope of the transmission burst signal S_{out} , taking the averaged power into consideration. In other words, it is possible to select a relatively small time constant in advance and specify only design parameters for the purpose of performing feedback control of the saturation power level and hence high speed operation of the automatic power control (APC) loop.

[0023] In the burst-type transmission power control apparatus of Fig. 1, however, since the dynamic range

of the detector 5 is narrow, it is difficult both to increase the speed of the rising and falling characteristics of the transmission burst signal S_{out} , and it is difficult to increase the power level of the transmission burst signal S_{out} .

[0024] Also, when a low transmission power level is selected for the high power amplifier 2, the detection sensitivity fluctuates depending on its temperature.

[0025] Further, when a low transmission power level is selected for the high power amplifier 2, the output gate control sensitivity of the high power amplifier 2 becomes high and fluctuates, with the result that low-power APC control cannot be carried out stably on a reproducible basis.

[0026] In Fig. 3, which illustrates a second prior art burst-type transmission control apparatus (see: Fig. 10 of JP-A-5-152977), a variable attenuator 9 is inserted between the directional coupler 3 and the detector 5 of Fig. 1. The variable attenuator 9 is controlled by a control voltage V_a from the control unit 8, so as to make the maximum input level of the detector 5 constant. Therefore, if the control sensitivity of the detector 5 is held to a substantially constant level by arranging the variable attenuator 9 upstream relative to the detector 5, it is then possible to provide accurate transmission power control over a wide dynamic range from a low power output to a high power output simply by means of a closed loop formed by the high power amplifier 2, the directional coupler 3, the variable attenuator 9, the detector 5 and the relative error amplifier 6. Thus, the dynamic range of the closed loop is broadened so that the operation of the detector 5 is stabilized on a reproducible basis.

[0027] In the burst-type transmission control apparatus of Fig. 3, however, since the control sensitivity of the high power amplifier 2 is not improved, in particular, since the control sensitivity of the high power amplifier 2 is high when a low transmission power level is selected for the high power amplifier 2, a higher open loop gain and a broader loop band are obtained, thus exhibiting a high damping coefficient and giving rise to an overshoot or undershoot during the rising burst period.

[0028] In more detail, generally, as for the relationship between the error voltage V_{error} and the transmission burst signal S_{out} or the output voltage of the high power amplifier 2, the control sensitivity defined by the power increment per the error voltage increment of the high power amplifier 2 is in the form of a curve which is high when the latter is producing a low power output and falls to a saturation level at a point near the maximum power output.

[0029] Thus, the control sensitivity of the high power amplifier 2 changes to a large extent, depending on the transmission power level.

[0030] In particular, the control sensitivity rises to make rapidly, causing closed loop to oscillate spuriously in the manner described above when the output power level is low.

[0031] Note that the above-mentioned oscillation of the closed loop, which occurs when a low output power level is selected can be eliminated by appropriately selecting certain other constants to narrow the loop band and adopting a large time base for the closed loop, in order to delay its response. However, using this technique for correcting the control sensitivity, the response of the closed loop is constantly delayed. In particular, since the control sensitivity of the high power amplifier 2 falls when the maximum power output is selected, the response of the closed loop is greatly delayed at that time to make it impossible to control the burst output including the ramping waveforms before and after the steady-state burst in a desired manner. As a result, it is no longer possible to expect the effect of APC on various environmental changes including fluctuations in the supply voltage, the input level and/or the power gain of the high power amplifier 2.

[0032] Thus, in the burst-type transmission control apparatus of Fig. 3, if there is a resistance/inductance/capacitance (RLC) constant in the closed loop, which can cause the phase to undergo an extreme turn within the loop band, no safe margin can be secured for the phase nor for the amplitude, and a spurious oscillation may occur because of the positive feedback generated at and near the frequency where a higher-order curve of the open loop transfer characteristics intersects the 0 gain.

[0033] In Fig. 5, which illustrates a third prior art burst-type transmission output control apparatus (see: Fig. 1 of JP-A-5-152977 & JP-A-10-172380), a variable power driver amplifier 10 capable of regulating its gain is connected between the modulated wave generator 1 and the high power amplifier 2 so as to suppress fluctuation of the control sensitivity of the high power amplifier 2, depending on the output power level.

[0034] In Fig. 5, in addition to the feedback control for controlling the output of the high power amplifier 2 by means of the error voltage V_{error} from the relative error amplifier 6, feed forward control of controlling the output level of the variable power driver amplifier 10 is carried out in such a way that the high power amplifier 2 may show a substantially constant control sensitivity level relative to the desired transmission power level. In other words, in addition to the closed loop feedback control adapted to maintain the detection sensitivity of the closed loop constant relative to fluctuations in the transmission power output, open control, i.e., feed forward control, is provided on the output level of the variable power driver amplifier 10 in response to the transmission power level so as to cause the control sensitivity of the high voltage power amplifier 2 to be at a constant level. Therefore, it is now possible to control the power output stably and accurately during the steady-state burst time period, including the rising and falling ramping time periods, over a wide dynamic power output range.

[0035] For example, when the power output should

be stabilized by means of APC feedback by reducing the transmission burst signal S_{out} from the high power amplifier 2 by 10dB from the selected maximum output level, the input level of the high power amplifier 2 is reduced by 12dB to cause the control sensitivity to shift from the curve C1 to the curve C2 in Fig. 4. As a result, the feedback operation can be carried out without modifying the error voltage V_{error} and the control sensitivity obtained when the maximum power output is selected, so that the effect of APC remains stable and accurate regardless of whether a low power output or the maximum power output is selected.

[0036] Similarly, when the power output should be stabilized by means of APC feedback by reducing the transmission burst signal S_{out} from the high output power amplifier 2 by 24dB from the selected maximum output level, the input level of the high power amplifier 2 is reduced by 30dB to cause the control sensitivity to shift from the curve C1 to the curve C3 in Fig. 4.

[0037] Thus, the feedback operation can be carried out without modifying the control sensitivity, with the result that the effect of APC remains stable and accurate regardless of whether a low power output or the maximum power output is selected.

[0038] The optimum control voltage V_6 is selected in advance for each output power level of the high power amplifier 2 and stored in the ROM or RAM in the control unit 8, so that it can be retrieved from the ROM or RAM by means of an output power setting command when the corresponding output power level is selected in order to ensure a substantially optimum drive input. The subsequent operation of controlling the output stably and accurately is carried out by means of the closed loop feedback system.

[0039] However, when the transmission power control apparatus of Fig. 5 is applied to a terrestrial mobile communication terminal for global system for mobile communication (GSM), personal communications network (PCN) or personal communications system (PCS) using a GMSK modulation or a medium altitude orbit mobile satellite communication terminal utilizing a Gaussian filtered minimum shift keying (GMSK) modulation system, there remains a problem of phase error of the transmission burst due to phase fluctuations of the phase of the high power amplifier 2, which can occur in the burst-rising and-falling time periods.

[0040] Terrestrial mobile communication terminals and medium-altitude orbiting mobile satellite communication terminals employ a fixed envelope modulation system which ensures a high efficiency operation in the saturation region of the high power amplifier 2 when a high output power level is selected. Therefore, the steady-state operation point of the high power amplifier 2 is normally set in the saturation region. Under this condition, generally, a phase modulation (PM) region exists at and near the output saturation point of the high power amplifier 2.

[0041] As described above, phase fluctuations

occur in the high power amplifier 2 because abrupt fluctuations in the amplitude envelope which occur inside the high output control amplifier 2 at and near the burst rising and falling time periods intersects the above phase fluctuation region.

[0042] In Fig. 6, which illustrates a first embodiment of the burst-type transmission control apparatus according to the present invention, a transmission converter 1' is provided instead of the modulated wave generator 1 of Fig. 5. The transmission converter 1' includes a modulator and a local oscillator to modulate two digital base-band signals I and Q or an input base signal by means of GMSK modulation and outputs a modulated signal S_{in} .

[0043] Also, a voltage converter 11 formed by a DC/DC converter or a series dropper is connected between the power supply battery 7 and the high power amplifier 2 of Fig. 6. The voltage converter 11 normally supplies a stabilized supply voltage V_p to the drain voltage terminal of the high power amplifier 2 and operates to raise the supply voltage V_p only for a short period of time before and after the steady-state burst time period including the burst-rising and-falling ramping time periods under the control of the control unit 8.

[0044] The voltage converter 11 is constructed by an in-phase voltage amplifier 111 for amplifying a control voltage V_c , a voltage follower 112 having an operational amplifier for receiving the output voltage of the in-phase voltage amplifier 111, a large power NPN-type transistor 113 having a base connected to the output of the voltage follower 112, a collector connected to the power supply battery 7 and an emitter connected drain voltage terminal of the high power amplifier 2, and a resistor 114 connected between the base and the collector of the transistor 113.

[0045] The control voltage V_c from the control unit 8 is amplified by the in-phase voltage amplifier 111 and is supplied to the base of the transistor 113 by way of the voltage follower 112. At this time, the in-phase voltage amplifier 111 operates so as to make the voltage level of the amplified voltage lower than the voltage V_p of the power supply battery 7.

[0046] Thus, the voltage V_p which is lower than the voltage V_p of the power supply battery 7 and has dropped from the base voltage of the transistor 113 by the voltage between the emitter and base (about 0.6 to 0.7V) thereof is applied to the drain voltage terminal of the high power amplifier 2.

[0047] The control unit 8 generates the voltage V_a for the variable attenuator 9, the control voltage V_b for the variable power driver amplifier 10, the control voltage V_c for the voltage converter 11 and the reference voltage V_{ref} for the relative error amplifier 6, in accordance with the control signal S_{out} including a burst timing command and an output power setting command from the base station. The burst timing command designates the timing of the next transmission burst, and the output power setting command designates the output level of

the transmission burst signal S_{out} . Also, in the same way as in the apparatus of Fig. 5, the degree of attenuation to be achieved by the variable attenuator 9 is controlled so as to cause the input to the detector 5 to be at a constant level without depending on the transmission burst signal S_{out} . As a result, a broad dynamic range can be realized for the detection system and the detection sensitivity of the detection system can be held to a constant level regardless of the transmission power. Further, in the same way as in Fig. 5, the output level of the variable power driver amplifier 10 is controlled to optimize the input level of the high power amplifier 2 in order to hold the control sensitivity of the high power amplifier 2 relative to the transmission output power level.

[0048] The operation of the burst-type transmission control apparatus of Fig. 6 is explained next with reference to Figs. 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D and 7E.

[0049] The relative error amplifier 6 compares the reference voltage V_{ref} as shown in Fig. 7A with the detected voltage V_{det} as shown in Fig. 7B, to generate the error voltage V_{error} and transmit it to the gate terminal of the high power amplifier 2. Thus, the transmission burst signal S_{out} is controlled by the feedback of the error voltage V_{error} so that the detected voltage V_{det} is brought close to the reference voltage V_{ref} . As a result, as shown in Fig. 7C, the waveform of the transmission burst signal S_{out} is brought close to that of the reference voltage V_{ref} .

[0050] A considerably large value can be selected for the closed loop band of the loop provided that fixed envelope modulation such as GMSK is in place as in the embodiment. The loop is designed so that the loop response (loop time constant) is faster than the burst time and slower than the symbol rate, and the loop constant is selected so as to make the circuit follow a high speed burst including ramping stably at high speed.

[0051] In more detail, the reference voltage V_{ref} has a waveform obtained by convoluting the ramping output envelope waveform at the rising and falling time periods of the burst and the rectangular output envelope waveform at the steady-state burst period on a time base. The ROM or RAM in the control unit 8 stores a lookup table showing the correspondence between the reference voltage V_{ref} and the transmission power level shown in Fig. 7A.

[0052] During the steady-state burst period, the reference voltage V_{ref} is held to a level which corresponds to the level of the detected voltage V_{det} in the steady-state period for each transmission power level, provided that the detected voltage V_{det} is ideal and therefore the transmission burst signal S_{out} is at a level which corresponds to the transmission power level specified by the transmission power level setting command in the steady-state burst period. Then, the control unit 8 retrieves the reference voltage V_{ref} corresponding to the transmission power level specified by the transmission power setting command from the lookup table and outputs it to the relative error amplifier 6 at the timing spec-

ified by the burst timing.

[0053] The relative error amplifier 6 operates to decrease the error voltage V_{error} to be applied to the high power amplifier 2 when the detected voltage V_{det} is higher than the reference voltage V_{ref} and hence the transmission burst signal S_{out} is higher than the desired level in order to decrease the transmission output power level of the high power amplifier 3. On the other hand, the relative error amplifier 7 operates to increase the error voltage V_{ref} to be applied to the high output power amplifier 2 when the detected voltage V_{det} is lower than the reference voltage V_{ref} and hence the transmission burst signal S_{out} is lower than the desired level in order to increase the transmission output power level of the high power amplifier 2.

[0054] The gate voltage terminal of the high power amplifier 2 is connected to the gate of the transistor typically located at the last stage inside the high power amplifier 2. Therefore, the output level of the high power amplifier 2 changes in accordance with the error voltage V_{error} .

[0055] Thus, the transmission burst signal S_{out} is automatically controlled to become equal to the desired transmission output level including the ramping waveforms before and after the steady-state burst as shown in Fig. 7A, in response to the error voltage V_{error} .

[0056] Thus, in the same way as in the apparatus of Fig. 5, since the dynamic range of the detection system is broadened by controlling the variable attenuator 9 as described above, the apparatus operates stably on a reproducible basis regardless of the transmission output power level.

[0057] In addition to the above-described feedback control for controlling the output of the high power amplifier 2 by means of the error voltage V_{error} from the relative error amplifier 6, the control unit 8 generates the control voltage V_b to provide feed-forward control for controlling the output level of the variable power driver amplifier 10 in such a way that the high power amplifier 2 has a substantially constant control sensitivity level relative to the desired transmission power level.

[0058] Thus, in the same way as in the apparatus of Fig. 5, with the arrangement for controlling the detection sensitivity of the detection system and the control sensitivity of the high power amplifier 2 by way of the open loop depending on each selected transmission output power level, using the control voltage V_a and V_b supplied from the control unit 8, within the closed loop feedback control system including the detection system and the high power amplifier 2, it is now possible to control the power output stably and accurately during the steady-state burst including the rising and falling time periods of the transmission burst, over a wide dynamic range of power output.

[0059] Under the above-mentioned condition, generally, a phase modulation (PM) fluctuation region exists at and near the output saturation point of the high power amplifier 2. In order to avoid the PM fluctuation region

while exploiting the high-accuracy APC, the voltage converter 11 is provided.

[0060] As shown in Fig. 7D, the control voltage V_c has two potential levels including a constant potential level which corresponds to the power supply voltage V_p in the steady-state burst period from time t2 to time t3 and a high potential level for increasing the power supply voltage V_p for a short period of time before and after the steady-state burst period including the rising and falling ramping time periods from time t1 to time t2 and from time t3 to time t4.

[0061] The control voltage V_c is amplified by the in-phase voltage amplifier 111 of the voltage converter 11 and is applied to the base of transistor 113 after passing through the voltage follower 112. At this time, the in-phase voltage amplifier 111 operates so as to cause the voltage level of the amplified voltage to be lower than the output voltage level d, V_p of the power supply battery 7.

[0062] Thus, the voltage V_p which is lower than the output voltage V_p of the power supply battery 7 and has dropped from the base voltage of the transistor 113 by the voltage between the emitter and the base of the transistor 113 is applied to the drain voltage terminal of the high power amplifier 2.

[0063] As the voltage converter 11 is controlled by the control unit 8 so as to increase the power supply voltage V_p for a short period of time before and after the steady-state burst period including the rising and falling ramping time periods, the saturation power output of the high power amplifier 2 is raised only for that short period.

[0064] Thus, the operating point of the high power amplifier 2 in the course of movement of the transmission burst signal S_{out} from the rising ramping time period to the steady-state burst period or from the steady-state burst period to the falling ramping time period is temporarily set not in the saturation region but in the linear region where the output back-off is ensured. Therefore, the saturation point of the high power amplifier 2 can be controlled in such a way that abrupt fluctuations in the amplitude envelope which occur inside the high power amplifier 2 at and near the burst-rising and-falling time periods do not intersect the phase fluctuation region. As a result, any possible degradation of signal reception due to phase fluctuations (phase error) of the high power amplifier 2 can be suppressed and the average phase error (or the maximum phase error) of the transmission burst can be confined within an allowable range.

[0065] Since a phase error on the part of the transmission burst degrade the signal reception at the other end of the communication line, the present invention can successfully remedies such degradation.

[0066] Note that the control voltage V_c is set to a lower limit in order to ensure a desired transmission output power level in the steady-state burst period after the rising ramping time period so as to cause the operating

point of the high power amplifier 2 to move from the linear region to the saturation region. As a result, the high power amplifier 2 can operate reliably and highly efficiently in the steady-state burst period which constitutes almost all of the transmission burst signal S_{out} so that a mobile terminal incorporating the transmission power control apparatus of Fig. 6 can effectively prevent any unnecessary rise in the average power consumption.

[0067] Additionally, the change in the power supply voltage V_p in the course of movement from the rising ramping time period to the steady-state burst period or from the steady-state burst period to the falling ramping time period is controlled by the control unit 8 in such a way that the transmission burst envelope is stably controlled by feedback control to draw a continuous and moderate envelope locus, so that the transmission burst envelope does not give rise to any inflection point as a result of a change in the power supply voltage V_p .

[0068] As shown in Fig. 7D, such control can be realized by causing the reference voltage V_{in} to become inclined in the course of movement from the rising ramping time period to the steady-state burst period or from the steady-state burst period to the falling ramping time period.

[0069] Note that if the power output of the high power amplifier 2 fluctuates due to a change in the supply voltage V_p , such fluctuations in the power output are sufficiently compressed by high-speed APC feedback control and do not give rise to any problem.

[0070] As described above, in the first embodiment, it is a prerequisite in a radio transmitter including the high power amplifier 2 particularly adapted to amplify and burst-transmit a modulated wave (such as GMSK) which does not involve any amplitude fluctuations with the TDMA radio communication system that highly stable, accurate and high speed APC be used to maintain the level of the output containing effective bit data for the transmission burst wave in the steady-state burst period to a constant level over a selected wide output range and that the driver amplifier 10 and the detector 9 be controlled by feed-forward control in response to the transmission output level in order to maintain the detection sensitivity of the detector 5 and the control sensitivity of the amplifier 2 at a constant level over a wide dynamic range as the loop constant existing in the feedback loop.

[0071] Also, in the first embodiment, it is a prerequisite that the output envelope ramping be controlled smoothly on the basis of the high speed ramping waveforms that are observed in the rising and falling time periods so as to meet the requirement of producing a wide range for the transmission output power level and preventing diffusion of the transient frequency spectrum at the transient response time, while satisfying the time-to-transient response mask.

[0072] Further, in order not to prevent the transmission burst from producing any phase error, the voltage converter 11 is provided so that the supply voltage V_p of

the high power amplifier 2 rises only in a short period of time before and after the steady-state burst period including the rising and falling ramping time periods. Thus, the saturation point of the high power amplifier 2 can be controlled in such a way that abrupt fluctuations in the amplitude envelope which occur inside the high power amplifier 2 at and near the burst-rising and-falling time periods do not intersect the phase fluctuation region.

[0073] The phase error of the transmission burst, which is produced as a result of phase fluctuations of the high power amplifier 2, is a problem unresolved by the prior art, and thus the present invention proposes a novel technique for controlling the supply voltage V_p of the high power amplifier 2 in order to solve the problem.

[0074] Accordingly, in first embodiment, the degradation in the efficiency of the high power amplifier 2 due to the means for preventing phase fluctuations is limited to the short period of time before and after the steady-state burst period including the rising and falling ramping time periods so that the above problem is overcome without increasing the average power consumption of the entire mobile terminal.

[0075] In Fig. 8, which illustrates a second embodiment of the burst-type transmission control apparatus according to the present invention, while the optimum input level of the high power amplifier 2 is selected by means of the gain control of the variable power driver amplifier 10 in an analog fashion in Fig. 6, it is selected by means of a digital baseband level converter 12 in a digital fashion in Fig. 8. Also, a fixed gain driver amplifier 10' is provided instead of the variable power driver amplifier 10 of Fig. 6.

[0076] More specifically, the digital baseband level converter 12 variably controls the level by changing the numerical values of the two digital modulated waves I and Q of the baseband in accordance with a digital level conversion signal S_d from the control unit 8. The ROM or RAM in the control unit 8 stores a lookup table showing the correspondence between the digital baseband signal I and Q adapted to realize the optimum input level of the high power amplifier 2 and the selected transmission output power level.

[0077] The control unit 8 outputs the digital level conversion signal S_d to the digital baseband level converter 12 in such a way that the optimum input level corresponding to the transmission output power level specified by the transmission power setting command may be obtained for the high power amplifier 2.

[0078] The operation of the control unit 8 of Fig. 8 is the same as the control unit 8 of Fig. 6, except that it generates the digital level conversion signal S_d and does not generate any control voltage V_b .

[0079] The burst-type transmission power control apparatus of Fig. 8 including the digital baseband level converter 12 and the transmission converter 1' can be integrated in a simple manner to control the mobile terminal in a reproducible fashion at low cost by carrying

out the operation of optimizing the input level of the high power amplifier 3 not by using a high frequency analog technique but by using a digital technique.

[0080] In Figs. 6 and 8, the voltage converter 11 is formed by a series dropper, thus providing an advantage that the manufacturing cost can be relatively low. However, since the use of the NDN-type transistor 113 designed for a large electric current entails a large power loss between the collector and emitter thereof, the power supply efficiency is somewhat low. Also, a voltage higher than the output voltage V_p of the power supply battery 7 is not available.

[0081] In Fig. 9, which is a circuit diagram of a modification of the voltage converter 11 of Figs. 6 and 8, the voltage converter 11 is constructed by a switching regulator 91 and an oscillator 92 for supplying a clock signal to the switching regulator 91, thus improving the power supply efficiency and the overall efficiency. Also, the supply voltage V_p of the high power amplifier 2 can be raised above the output voltage V_p of the power supply battery 7.

[0082] As explained hereinabove, according to the present invention, in order not to prevent the phase error of a transmission burst from being generated, the voltage converter is provided to raise the power supply voltage only for a short time period before and after a steady-state burst including rising and falling ramping time periods. Therefore, the saturation point of the high power amplifier can be controlled so that rapid fluctuations of amplitude envelopes within the high power amplifier occurring near the rising and falling ramping time periods do not intersect the phase fluctuation zone.

[0083] As a result, any possible degradation of signal reception due to the phase fluctuations (phase error) of the high power amplifier can be suppressed and the average phase error or the maximum phase error of the transmission burst can be confined with an allowable range.

[0084] Also, a fixed gain driver amplifier and a digital baseband level converter are provided in place of a variable power driver amplifier. As a result, the optimization of input level of the saturation type high power amplifier can be realized in a digital fashion instead of an analog fashion so that the transmission power control apparatus can be integrated in a simple fashion to control the transmission power on a highly reproducible basis at low cost.

[0085] Further, when the supply voltage of the saturation type high power amplifier is set to the lower limit value in order to ensure the desired transmission output power level in the steady-state burst period, the high power amplifier can be operated highly efficiently in the steady-state burst period which constitutes almost all the transmission burst period, so that any unnecessary increase in the average power consumption by the radio transmitter including the transmission output power control apparatus according to the invention can be prevented.

[0086] Additionally, since the voltage converter is formed by a series dropper, the voltage converter can be prepared in a simple manner at low cost. Still further, since the voltage converter is formed by a switching regulator, the supply voltage can be raised above the output voltage of the power supply battery of the radio transmitter.

Claims

1. A burst-type transmission output power control apparatus, comprising:

an variable power driver (10) for amplifying a modulated wave signal (S_{in});
 a saturation type high power amplifier (2), connected to said variable power driver, for amplifying an output signal of said variable power driver;
 a directional coupler (3), connected to said saturation type high power amplifier, for taking out a part of an output signal of said high power amplifier;
 a variable attenuator (9), connected to said directional coupler, for receiving the part of the output signal of said high power amplifier;
 a detector (5) connected to said variable attenuator, a degree of attenuation of said variable attenuator being regulated to cause an input level of said detector to be constant;
 a relative error amplifier (6), connected to said detector, for comparing an output signal of said detector with a reference voltage (V_{ref}) having a steady-state burst waveform including rising and falling ramping waveforms before and after said steady-state waveforms to generate an error voltage (V_{error}) and transmit said error voltage to an input of said saturation type high power amplifier, thus controlling the output signal of said saturation type high power amplifier so that the output signal of said detector is brought close to said reference voltage; and
 a voltage converter (11), connected to said saturation type high power amplifier, for supplying a power supply voltage (V_p) to said saturation type high power amplifier so that a saturation output of said saturation type high power amplifier is raised only for a short period before and after said steady-state burst waveform including said rising and falling time periods,
 said variable power driver being controlled to cause a control sensitivity of said saturation type high power amplifier to be constant relative to a transmission level.

2. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a transmission converter (1') for modulating two digital baseband signals (I, Q) to generate said

modulated signal.

3. The apparatus as set fourth in claim 1 or 2, wherein said power supply voltage supplied by said voltage converter to said saturation type high power amplifier during a period of said steady-state burst waveform is a lower limit value, thus ensuring a desired transmission power level of said saturation type high power amplifier.
4. The apparatus as set fourth in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said voltage converter comprises a series dropper.
5. The apparatus as set fourth in one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said voltage converter comprises a switching regulator.
6. A burst-type transmission output power control apparatus, comprising:

a digital base band level converter (12) for regulating digital baseband signals (I, Q);
 a transmission converter (1'), connected to said digital base band level converter, for modulating said two regulated digital baseband signals to generate a modulated wave signal (S_{in});
 a fixed power driver (10'), connected to said transmission converter, for amplifying said modulated wave signal;
 a saturation type high power amplifier (2), connected to said variable power driver, for amplifying an output signal of said variable power driver;
 a directional coupler (3), connected to said saturation type high power amplifier, for taking out a part of an output signal of said high power amplifier;
 a variable attenuator (9), connected to said directional coupler, for receiving the part of the output signal of said high power amplifier;
 a detector (5) connected to said variable attenuator, a degree of attenuation of said variable attenuator being regulated to cause an input level of said detector to be constant;
 a relative error amplifier (6), connected to said detector, for comparing an output signal of said detector with a reference voltage (V_{ref}) having a steady-state burst waveform including rising and falling ramping waveforms before and after said steady-state waveforms to generate an error voltage (V_{error}) and transmit said error voltage to an input of said saturation type high power amplifier, thus controlling the output signal of said saturation type high power amplifier so that the output signal of said detector is brought close to said reference voltage; and
 a voltage converter (11), connected to said sat-

uration type high power amplifier, for supplying
a power supply voltage (V_p) to said saturation
type high power amplifier so that a saturation
output of said saturation type high power ampli- 5
fier is raised only for a short period before and
after said steady-state burst waveform includ-
ing said rising and falling time periods,
said digital base band level converter being
controlled to cause a control sensitivity of said 10
saturation type high power amplifier to be con-
stant relative to a transmission level.

7. The apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein said
power supply voltage supplied by said voltage con- 15
verter to said saturation type high power amplifier
during a period of said steady-state burst waveform
is a lower limit value, thus ensuring a desired trans-
mission power level of said saturation type high
power amplifier. 20
8. The apparatus as set fourth in claim 6 or 7, wherein
said voltage converter comprises a series dropper. 25
9. The apparatus as set fourth in claim 6, 7 or 8,
wherein said voltage converter comprises a switch-
ing regulator. 30

35

40

45

50

55

Fig. 1

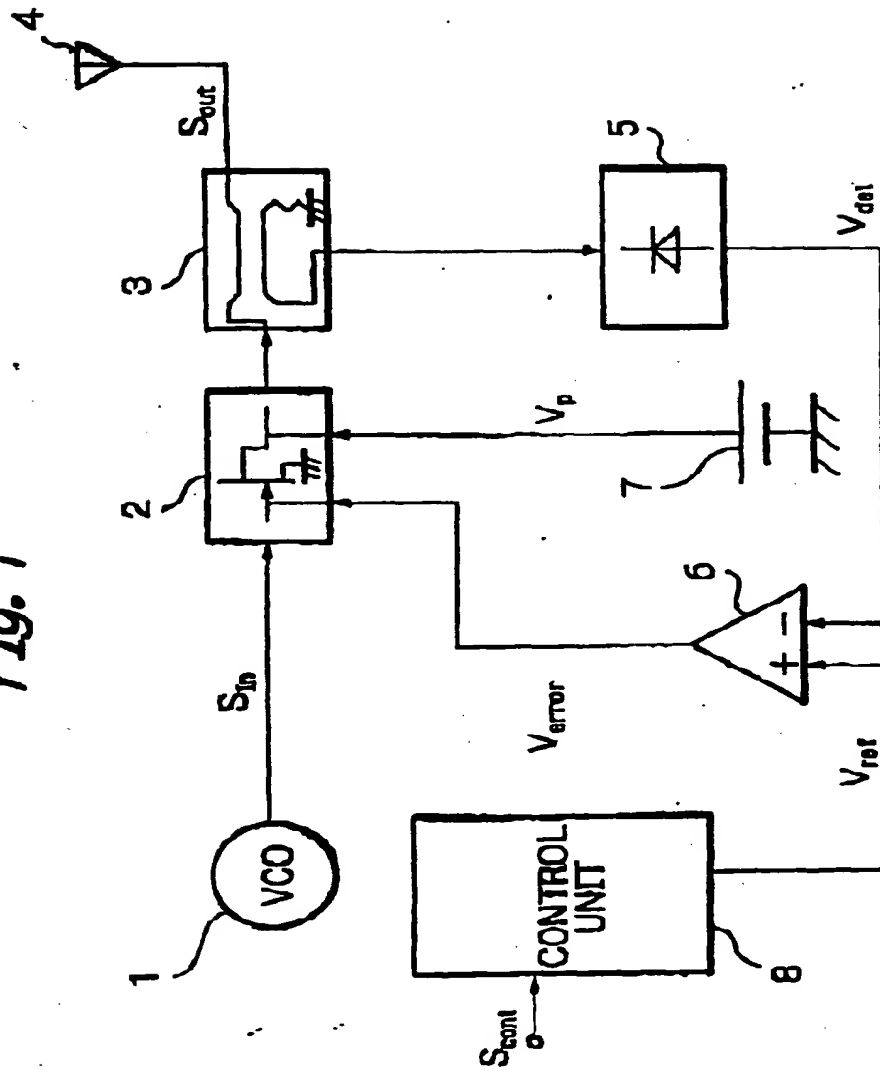


Fig. 2A

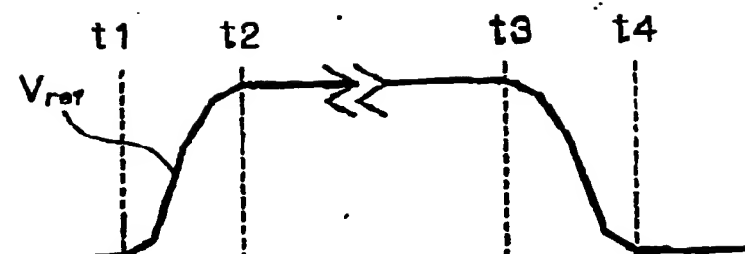


Fig. 2B

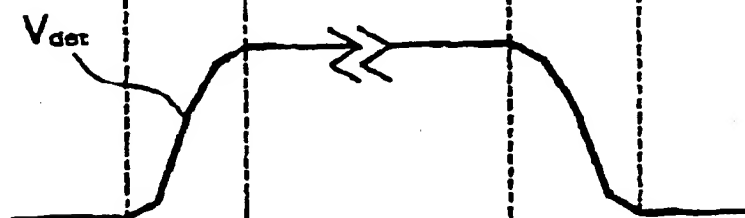


Fig. 2C

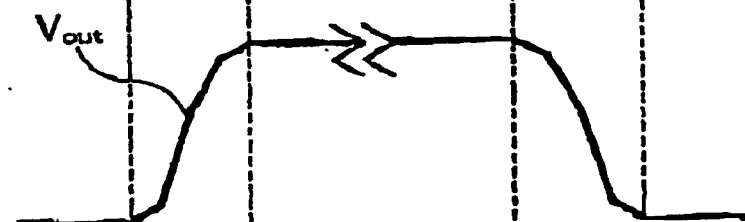


Fig. 3

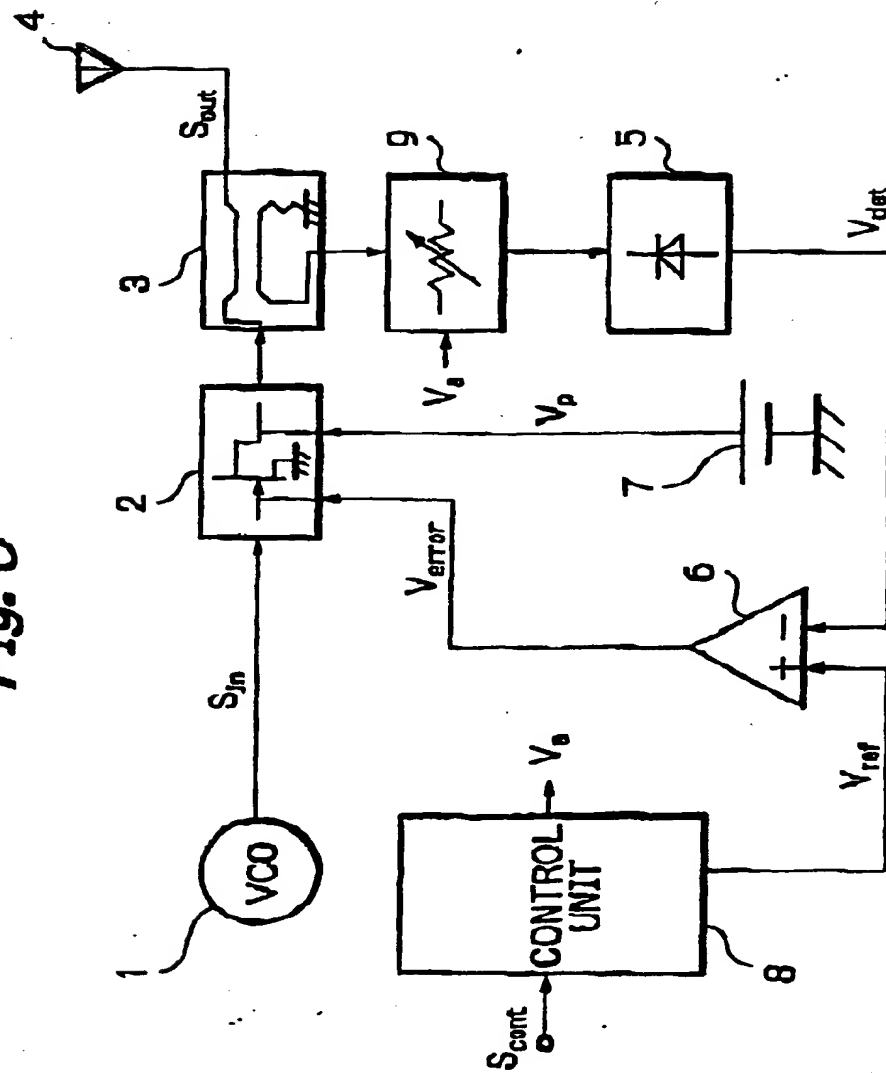


Fig. 4

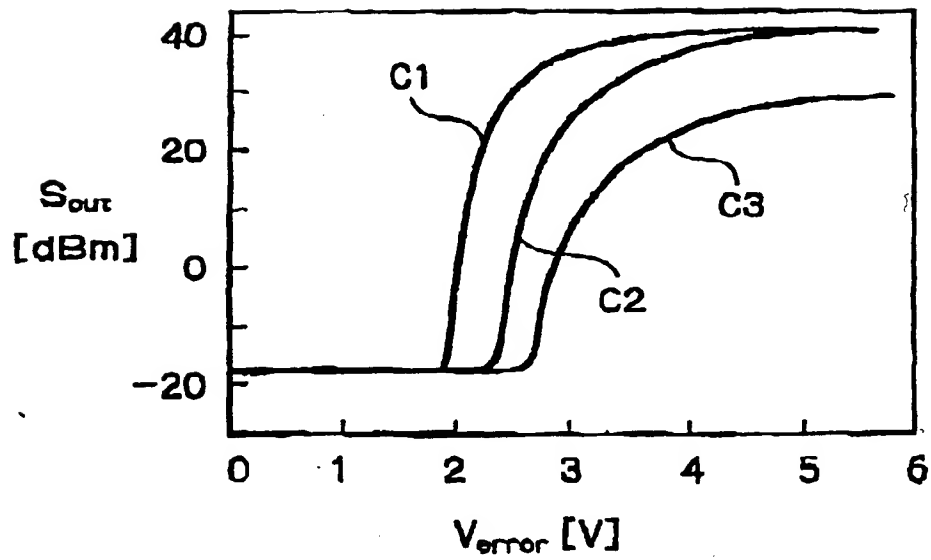


Fig. 5

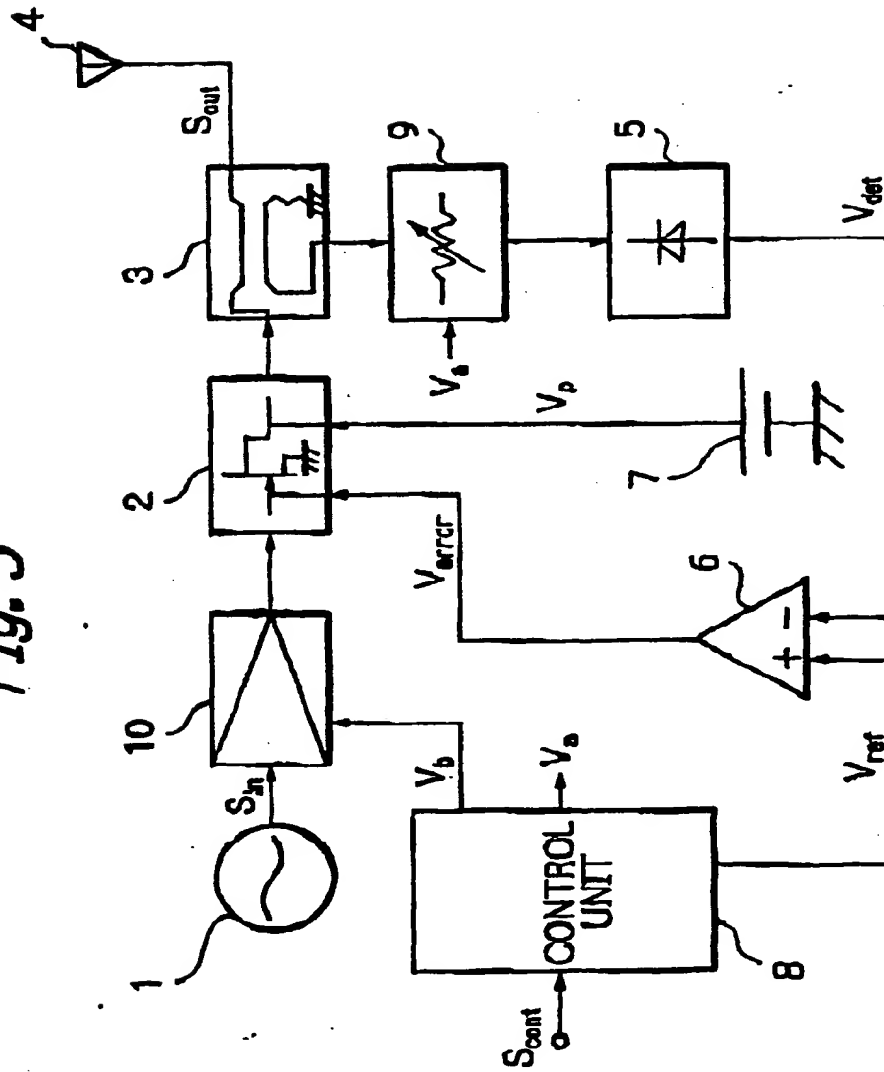


Fig. 6

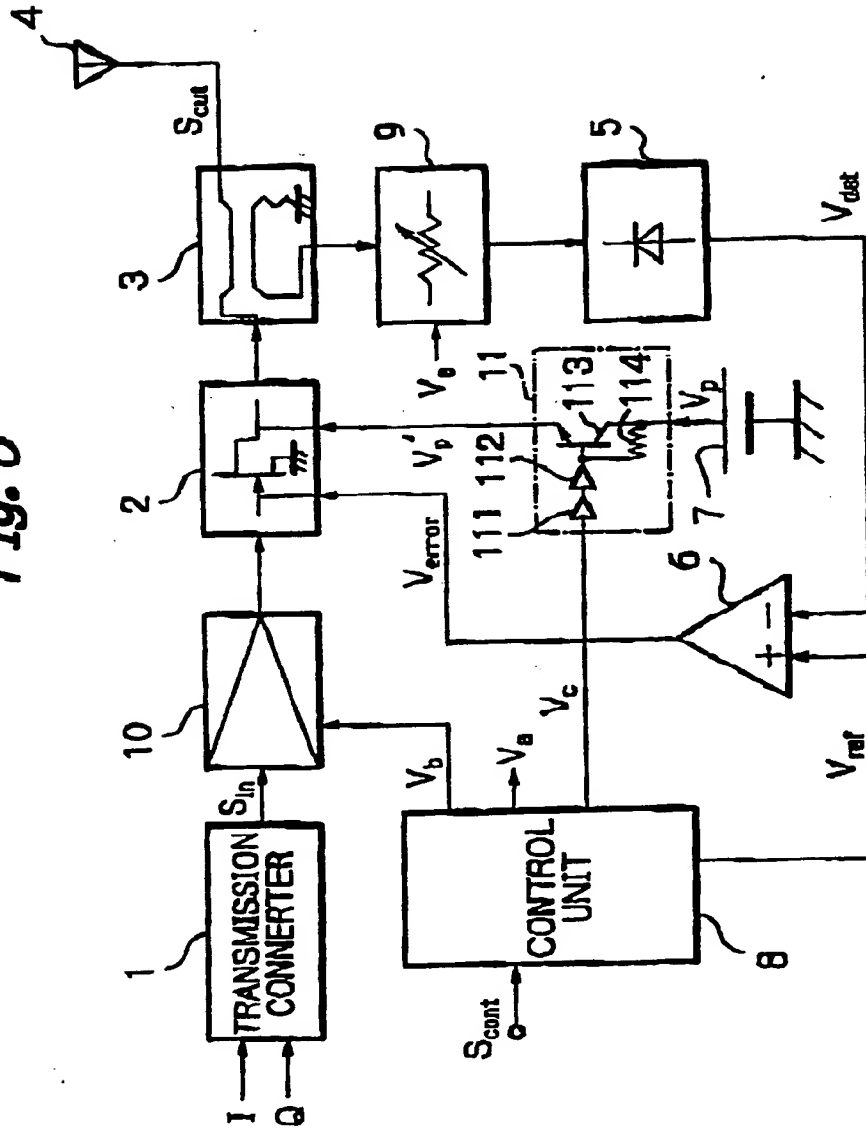


Fig. 7A

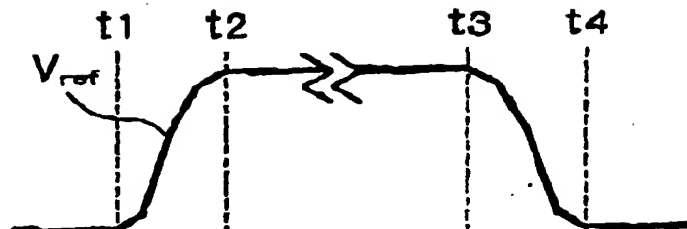


Fig. 7B

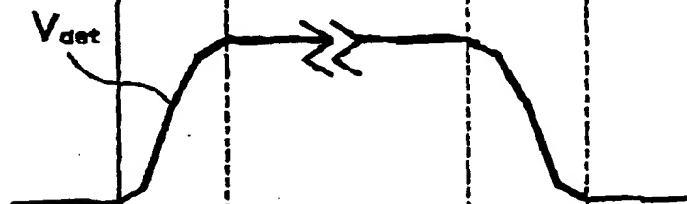


Fig. 7C

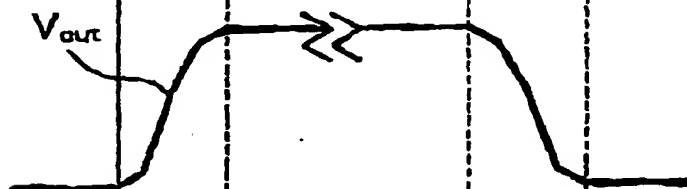


Fig. 7D

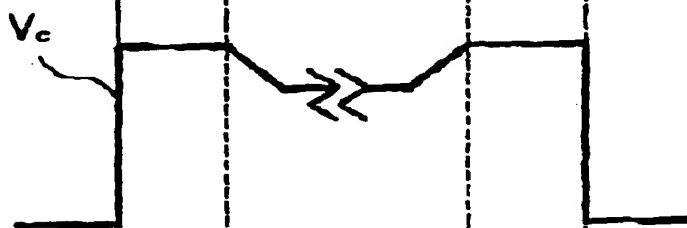


Fig. 7E

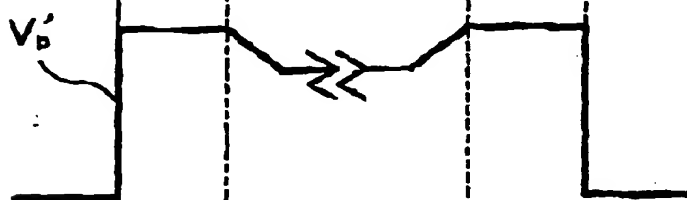


Fig. 8

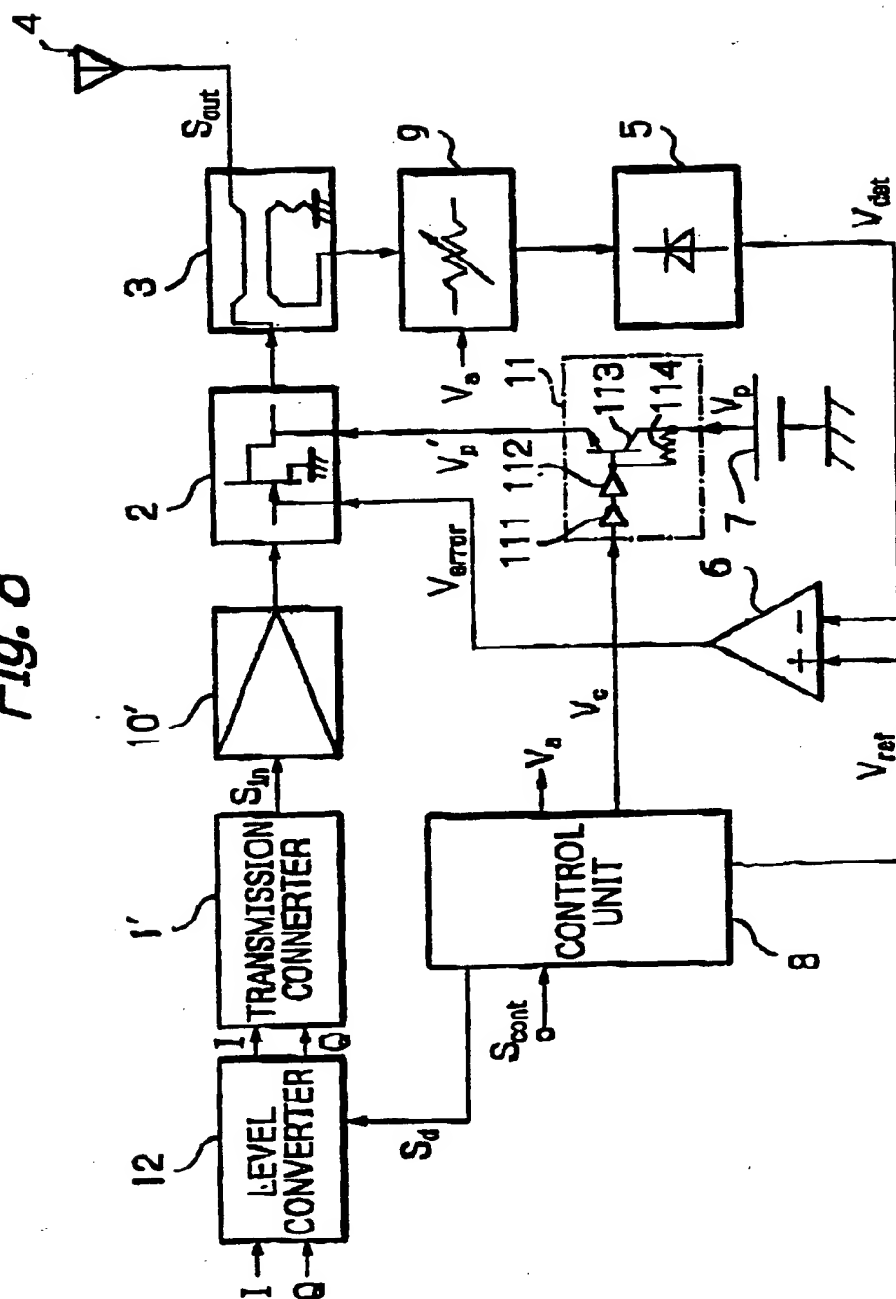
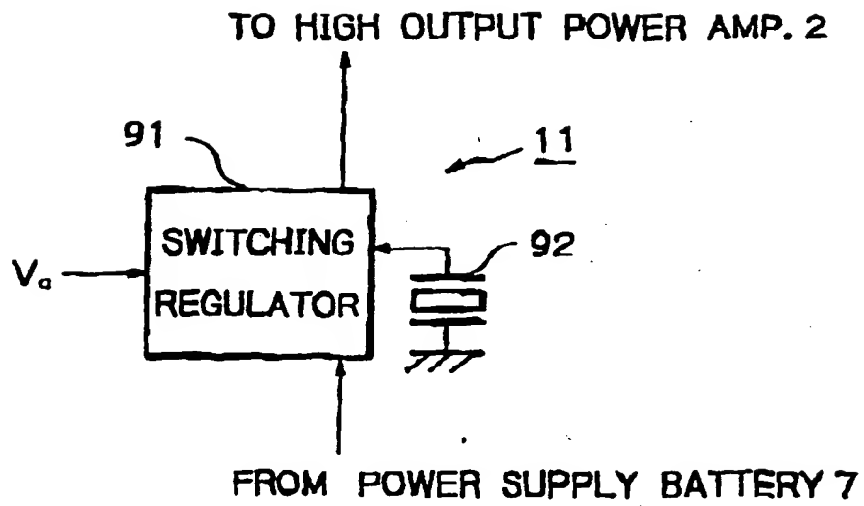


Fig. 9



THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)

Fig. 1

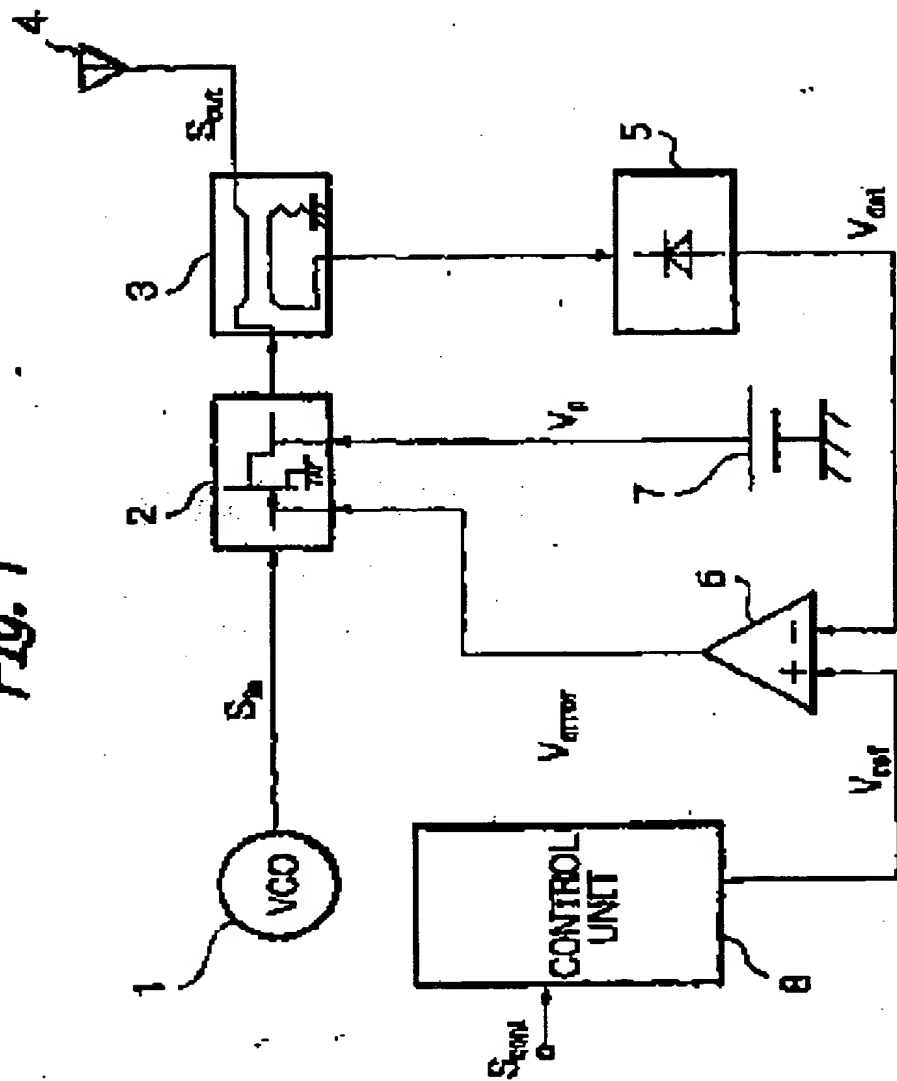


Fig. 2A

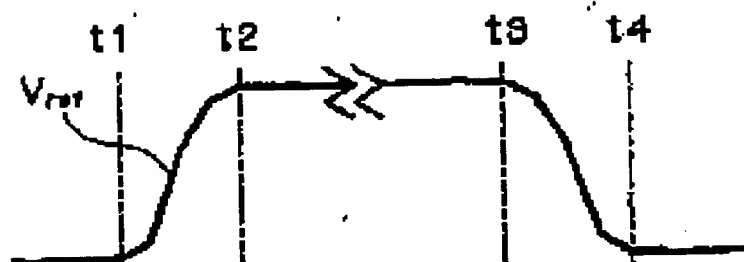


Fig. 2B

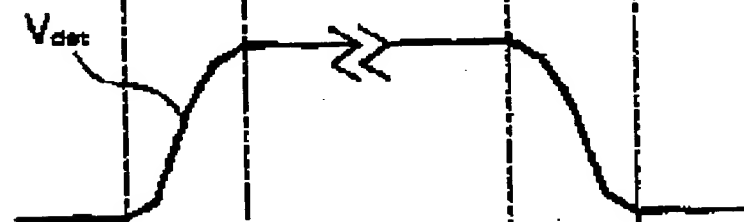


Fig. 2C

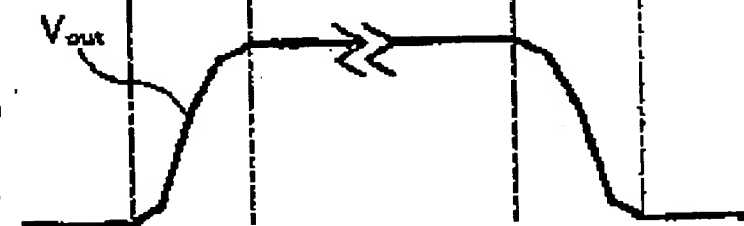


Fig. 3

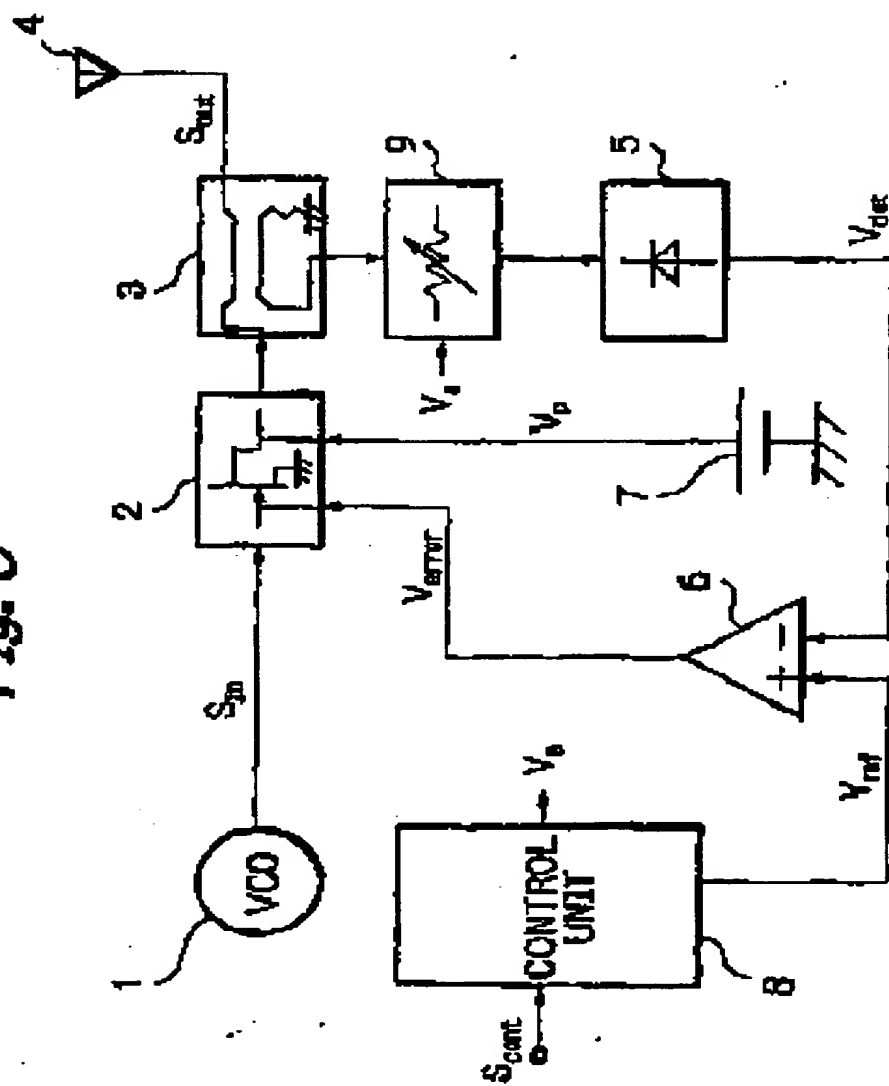
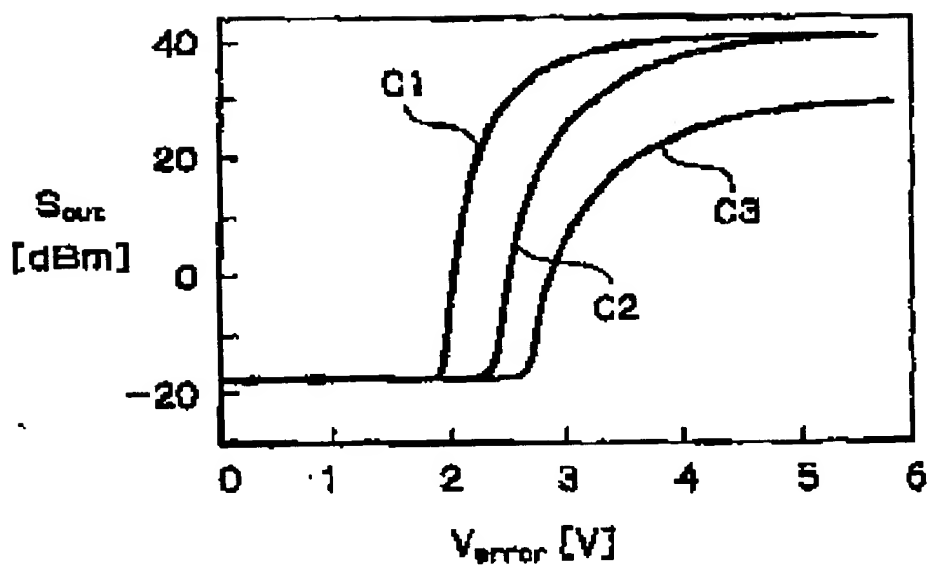


Fig. 4

Prior Art

Fig. 5

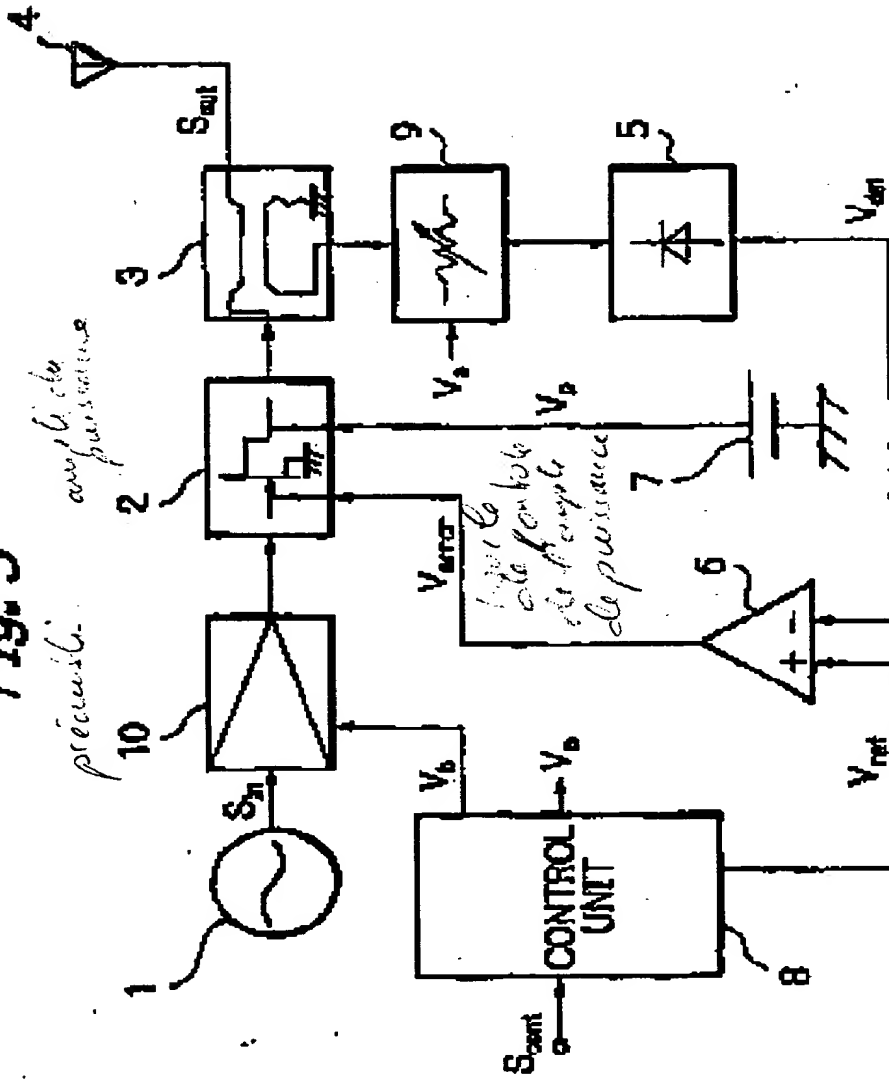


Fig. 6

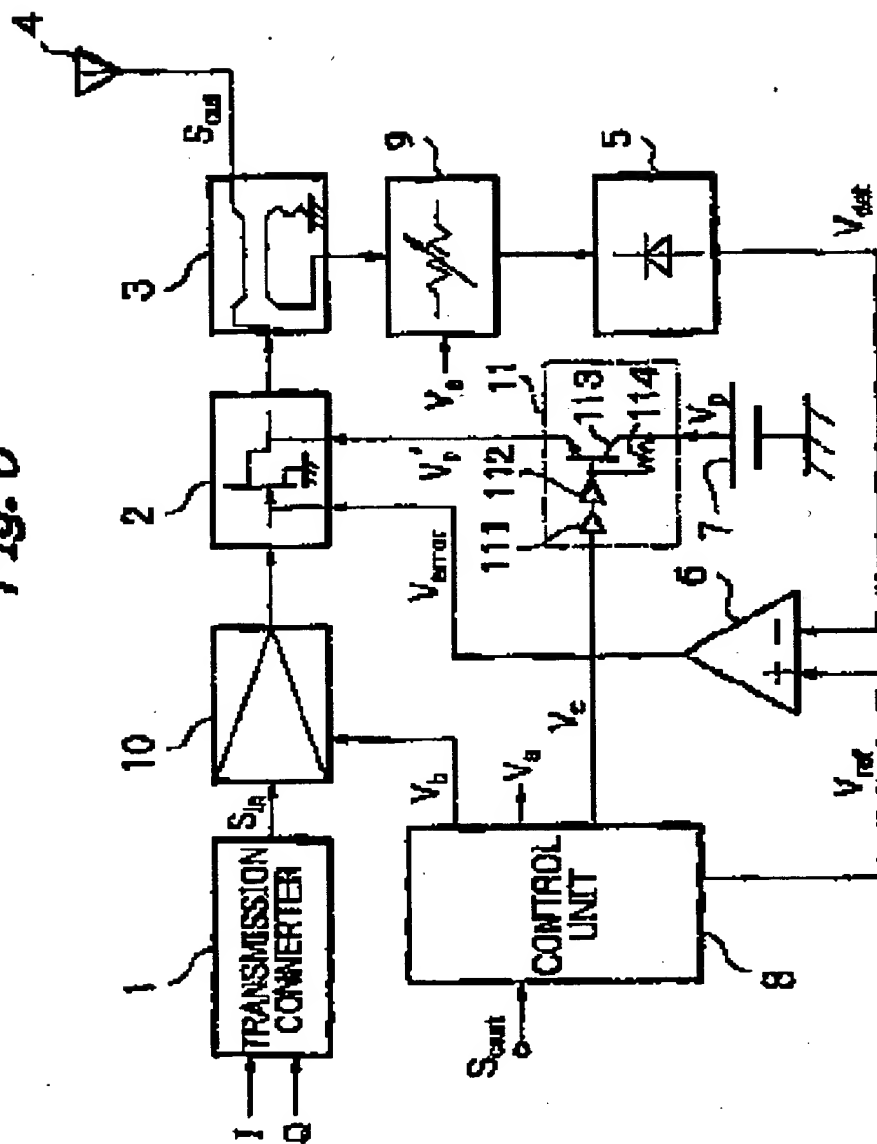


Fig. 7A

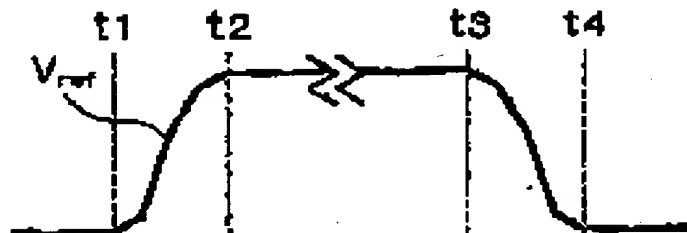


Fig. 7B

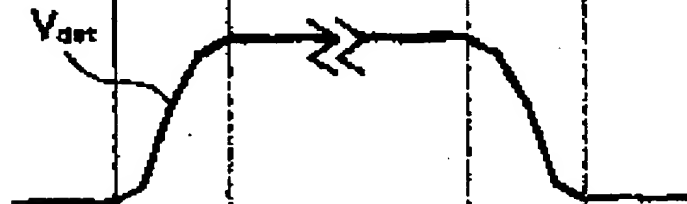


Fig. 7C

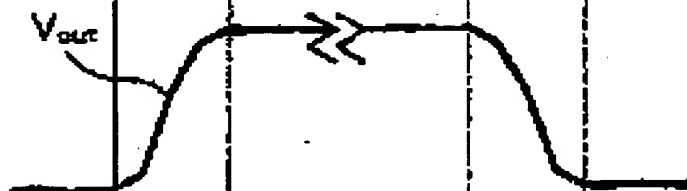
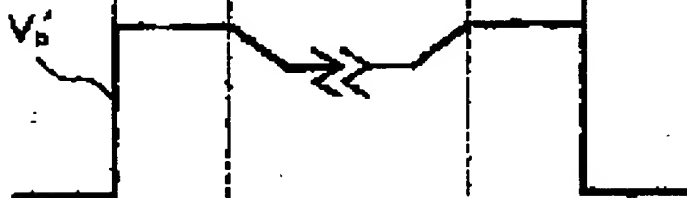


Fig. 7D



Fig. 7E



857

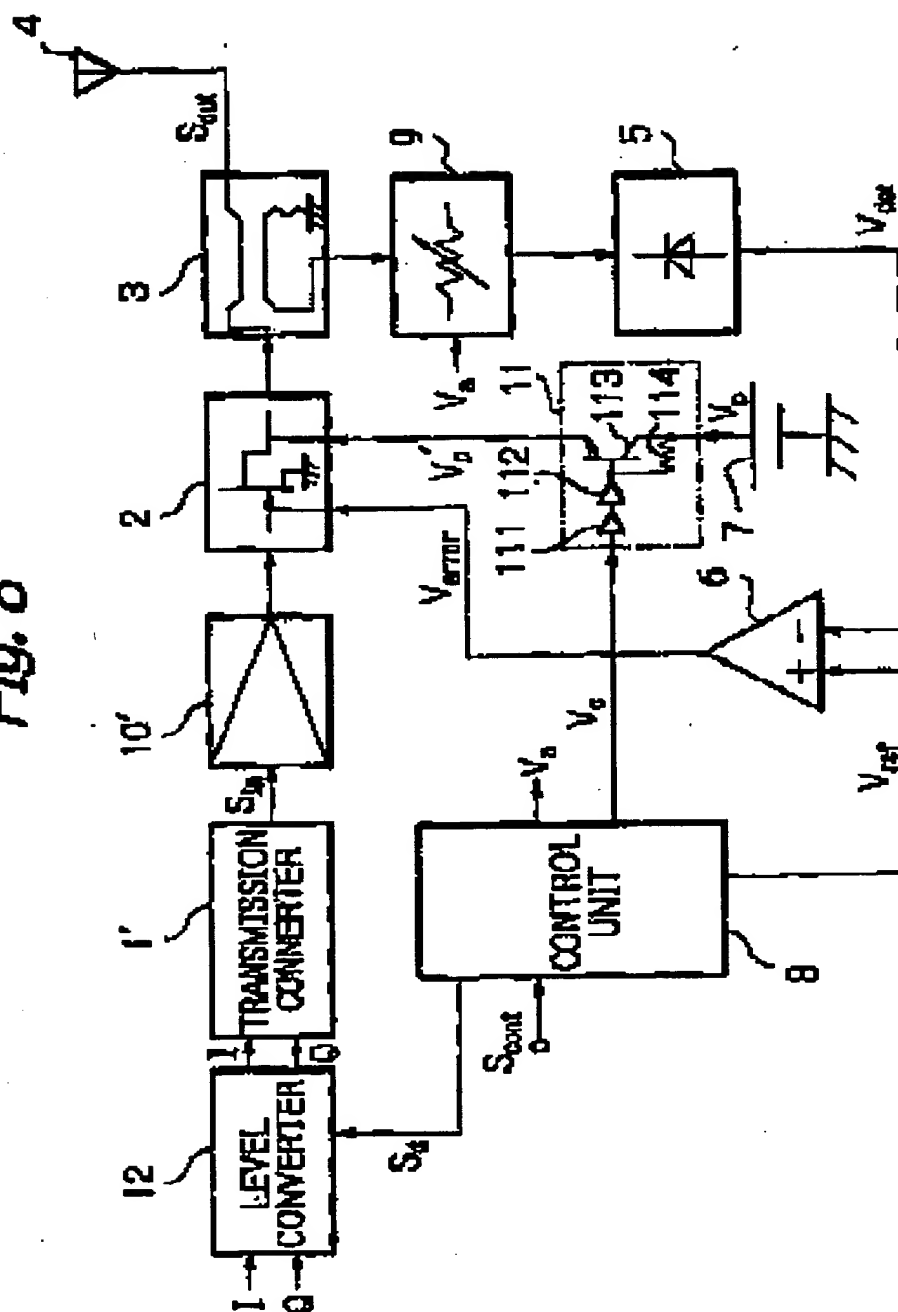
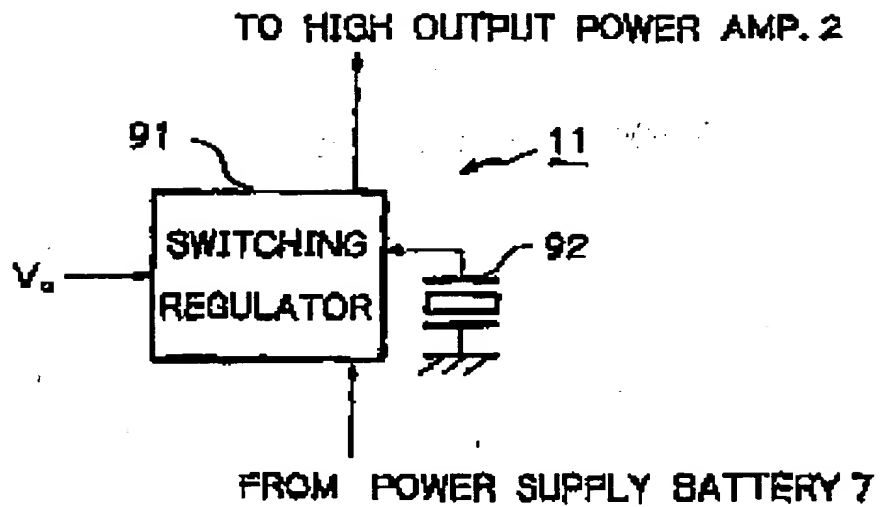
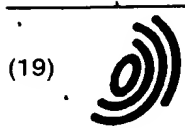


Fig. 9



THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 1 014 570 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
08.11.2000 Bulletin 2000/45

(51) Int. Cl. 7: H03G 3/30, H04B 1/04

(43) Date of publication A2:
28.06.2000 Bulletin 2000/26

(21) Application number: 99125232.1

(22) Date of filing: 17.12.1999

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(71) Applicant: NEC CORPORATION
Tokyo (JP)

(72) Inventor: Mochizuki, Takuji
Minato-ku, Tokyo (JP)

(74) Representative: Betten & Resch
Reichenbachstrasse 19
80469 München (DE)

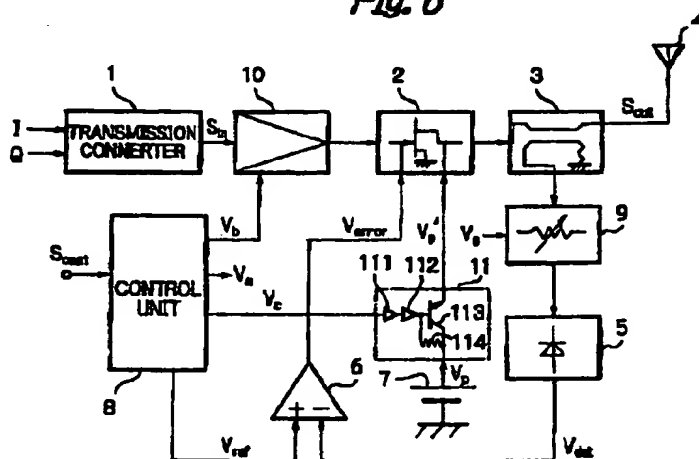
(30) Priority: 18.12.1998 JP 36084598

(54) Burst-type transmission output power control apparatus capable of reducing phase errors

(57) An burst-type transmission output power control apparatus, includes an open loop formed by an variable power driver (10) for amplifying a modulated wave signal (S_{in}), a saturation type high power amplifier (2) and a directional coupler (3). A closed loop is constructed by a variable attenuator (9), connected to the directional coupler, a detector (5) and a relative error amplifier (6) connected to the saturation type high

power amplifier. A voltage converter (11) supplies a power supply voltage (V_p) to the saturation type high power amplifier so that a saturation output of the saturation type high power amplifier is raised only for a short period before and after a steady-state burst waveform, including a rising and falling time periods.

Fig. 6



EP 1 014 570 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 12 5232

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Y	EP 0 546 693 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 16 June 1993 (1993-06-16)	1	H03G3/30 H04B1/04
A	* column 2, line 1 - line 28; figures 1,10-12 *	4-6	
P,Y	US 5 977 833 A (ATTIMONT LUC ET AL) 2 November 1999 (1999-11-02) * column 2, line 44 - column 4, line 29; figure 1 *	1	
	& CA 2 223 865 A (LUC ATTIMONT) 30 June 1998 (1998-06-30)		
A	GB 2 323 987 A (MOTOROLA LTD) 7 October 1998 (1998-10-07) * abstract; figure 2 *	6	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) H03G
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 15 September 2000	Examiner Wolff, N
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 99 12 5232

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

15-09-2000

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0546693 A	16-06-1993	JP 2826003 B	18-11-1998
		JP 5152977 A	18-06-1993
		DE 69213181 D	02-10-1996
		DE 69213181 T	06-02-1997
		FI 925427 A	30-05-1993
		US 5376895 A	27-12-1994
US 5977833 A	02-11-1999	FR 2758024 A	03-07-1998
		CA 2223865 A	30-06-1998
		EP 0851577 A	01-07-1998
GB 2323987 A	07-10-1998	GB 2286305 A	09-08-1995
		EP 0665657 A	02-08-1995

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)